



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection and Permanency	Effective Date:
Volume:	II	Intake, Investigation and Response	
Chapter:	E	Allegation Based System	10-3-2011
Subchapter:	1	Allegations	
Issuance:	2100	Inadequate Supervision	

ALLEGATION OF HARM 12-30-2004

Inadequate supervision can be due to neglect -- allegation of harm #74.

DEFINITION 12-30-2004

“Inadequate Supervision” means --

The child has been placed in a situation or circumstances which are likely to require judgment or actions greater than the child's level of maturity, physical condition, and/or mental abilities would reasonably dictate. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- leaving children alone when they are too young to care for themselves;
- leaving children who have a condition that requires close supervision alone. Such conditions may include medical conditions, behavioral, mental, or emotional problems, developmental disabilities or physical disabilities;
- being present but unable to supervise because of the caregiver's condition (This includes (1) the parent or caregiver who repeatedly uses drugs or alcohol to the extent that it has the effect of producing a substantial state of stupor, unconsciousness, intoxication or irrationality; and (2) the parent or caregiver who cannot adequately supervise the child because of his or her medical condition, behavioral, mental, or emotional problems, developmental disability or physical disability.);
- leaving children unattended in a place which is unsafe for them when their maturity, physical condition, and mental abilities are considered; or
- leaving children in the care of an inadequate or inappropriate caregiver, as substantiated by the caregiver factors.

TAKING A REPORT

12-30-2004

Usage --

The reporter/source has reason to believe that the child has been or is being inadequately supervised due to the disregard of his or her responsibilities by the parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare. (NEGLECT)

Factors to be Considered --

The following factors should be considered when determining whether a child is inadequately supervised.

Child Factors --

- Child's age and developmental stage, particularly as it relates to the ability to make sound judgments in the event of an emergency.
- Child's physical condition, particularly as it relates to the child's ability to care for or protect him or herself. Is the child physically or mentally handicapped, or otherwise in need of ongoing prescribed medical treatment such as periodic doses of insulin or other medications?
- Child's mental abilities, particularly as it relates to the ability to comprehend the situation.

Caregiver Factors --

- Presence or Accessibility of Caregiver
- How long does it take the caregiver to reach the child?
- Can the caregiver see and hear the child?
- Is the caregiver accessible by telephone?
- Has the child been given phone numbers to call in the event of an emergency?
- Caregiver's Capability
 - Is the caregiver mature enough to assume responsibility for the situation?
 - Does the caregiver depend on extraordinary assistance to care for self or child?
- Caregiver's Physical Condition
 - Is the caregiver physically able to care for the child?
 - Does the caregiver's health impede his or her ability to care for the child?
- Caregiver's Cognitive and Emotional Condition
 - Is the caregiver able to make appropriate judgments on the child's behalf?

-- Does the caregiver show signs of confusion or memory loss?

Incident Factors --

- Frequency of occurrence.
- Duration of the occurrence (as related to the “child factors” above).
- Time of the day or night when the incident occurs.
- Child’s location (the condition and location of the place where the minor was left without supervision).
- Weather conditions, including whether the minor was left in a location with adequate protection from the natural elements such as adequate heat or light?
- Other supporting persons who are overseeing the child (Was the child given a telephone number of a person or location to call in the event of an emergency, and whether the child was capable of making an emergency call?)
- Whether food and other provisions were left for the child.
- Other factors that may endanger the health and safety of the child.

Note: This harm is always NEGLECT.

INVESTIGATING A REPORT 12-30-2004

Required Documentation/Evidence Needed to Support a Finding --

- Documented observations that demonstrate that a child has been inadequately supervised or placed in circumstances that are likely to require judgment or actions greater than the child’s level of maturity, physical condition, or mental abilities.
- Specific and thorough identification and documentation of supervision issues which pose harm or significant risk of harm to the child as well as documentation of the parent disregard and/or failure to correct the situation.
- Detailed explanatory statements of the victim, perpetrator, witnesses, and any other person with knowledge of the condition have been obtained.
- If the police have conducted an investigation, the final finding must be obtained and documented. If the police report is not available, a case note (use a Contact Sheet) must be included, indicating the report has been requested along with documentation of the verbal statements. The supervisor must review the police report when it is received, to ensure findings do not conflict with previously documented information received verbally.
- All other required contacts made, or documentation as to why they were not.

- Apply and document the application of the “Factors to Be Considered”. Each factor should be assessed as to relevance to the specific case should be documented on a Contact Sheet, CP&P Form [26-52](#). With the onset of NJ SPIRIT, Release Two (on or about September, 2005), document your approval on a SPIRIT Case Note.

Written approval -- The above elements are required for every investigation into inadequate supervision. The Supervisor’s approval is required, in writing, if it is acceptable for any of the above steps to be eliminated from the investigation process.

The Supervisor documents his or her approval on a NJ SPIRIT Activity Note, printable as a Contact Sheet, CP&P Form [26-52](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR INVESTIGATION 10-3-2011

The Child Protective Investigator shall:

- Complete a safety assessment in accordance with policy. See [CP&P-III-B-6-600](#). Use CP&P Form [22-22](#), Safety Assessment (In-Home Cases).
- Hold in-person, individual interviews with the parents/caregivers. Parents should be contacted on the same day as contact with the child victim(s) if at all possible.
- Hold an in-person, individual interview of parent(s), other adults in the victim’s home, the child’s siblings, and other children residing in the victim’s home. Observe non-verbal children.
- Complete CARI checks of the family and other subjects regularly frequenting or living in the home. Review prior investigation.
- If a paramour-involved report, conduct Promis/Gavel check to determine record of criminal history.
- Interview reporter, source and others identified in the current report or related information as having knowledge of the incident.
- Hold an in-person, individual interview with alleged child victim(s); assess the child’s physical condition.
- Hold an in-person or phone interview with law enforcement, if police have had contact on report. This contact is to help establish the need to move to the formal investigation phase.
- Interview the primary Worker, if a service case is currently open.
- Interview the alleged perpetrator in person.
- Observe the environment where the lack of supervision occurred.
- In cases with non-verbal children and an anonymous reporter, conduct an interview with an individual (collateral) who has (or would likely have)

knowledge of the family situation and/or reported incident.

- Complete a risk assessment in accordance with policy, see [CP&P-III-B-6-600](#). Use CP&P Form [22-23](#), New Jersey CP&P Family Risk Assessment
- Refer the child to the Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center. See [CP&P-II-C-2-600](#).
- Complete a Caregiver Strengths and Needs Assessment in accordance with policy. See [CP&P-III-B-6-600](#). Use CP&P Form [22-24](#), New Jersey CP&P SDM™ Caregiver Strengths and Needs Assessment.
- Complete a Child Strength and Needs Assessment in accordance with policy. See [CP&P-III-B-6-600](#). Use CP&P Form [22-25](#), New Jersey CP&P SDM™ Child Strength and Needs Assessment.
- Hold an in-person, individual interview with parents/caregivers. If the safety assessment is marked unsafe, parents must be interviewed immediately to ensure the child's safety.
- Hold an in-person, individual interview with all other adults and verbal children of the perpetrator's household. Non-verbal children must be observed.
- Interview all identified witnesses who are reported to have knowledge of the incident.
- If the family or the subjects identify two or more possible collateral contacts, at least two must be interviewed either by phone or in person.
- Interview the prior Worker, if a service case is currently closed but has been open within the past two years.
- Interview other community professionals who have first hand knowledge of the incident.
- When there are other children in the home, interview school personnel and/or child care provider who has knowledge of the child and/or the level of parental care provided to the child.
- Interview child protective services in other states in which the family members have resided in the previous five years.

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REQUIRED MEDICAL INFORMATION AND/OR CONSULTATIONS

12-30-2004

The Worker must ensure that the child receives an immediate medical

examination if evidence exists that the child is in need of urgent medical care.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT/PROSECUTOR INVOLVEMENT OR NOTIFICATION
12-30-2004**

Notification of law enforcement and the Prosecutor is mandatory if protective custody is taken.